Banks issued KCCs to farmers who were eligible for sanction of production credit for cultivation purposes. However, the scope of the scheme has since been widened to cover other related purpsoes like term/working capital for agriculture and allied activities including a component for consumption needs. Now, the scheme also covers all eligible tenant farmers, oral lessees and share croppers. The main objectives of the scheme are to provide hassle free credit, to reduce the cost of borrowings and to bring down borrowings by farmers from informal sources like money lenders etc.

(c) The amount sanctioned by all the agencies, i.e. Cooperative Banks, RRBs and Commercial Banks together in the first year of implementation (1998-1999) was Rs. 2,310 crore and during 2005-06 (April 2005 to February 2006) was Rs. 38,277 crores.

Special Plan Assistance to Himachal Pradesh

3232. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the special plan assistance for the annual plan 2005-06 provided to Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether any special plan assistance is being provided to Himachal Pradesh during the year 2006-07; if so, the amount to be provided; and

(c) whether the special plan is provided in addition to the plan approved by the Planning Commission.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Planning Commission allocated Rs. 400 crores as Special Plan Assistance for Himachal Pradesh during 2005-06 of which the entire amount was released by Ministry of Finance.

(b) During the financial year 2006-07, the Planning Commission has allocated an amount of Rs. 475 crores as Special Plan Assistance for Himachal Pradesh of which no amount has so far been released to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh.

(c) Special Plan Assistance is one of the components of the Central Assistance allocated by the Planning Commission for financing Annual

Plan of States. The assistance of Rs. 400 crore was provided as Special Plan Assistance (SPA) in 2005-06 in view of the announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Externally Aided Programmes for North-Eastern States

3233. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Externally Aided Programmes sanctioned so far in favour of the North-Eastern States, State-wise;

(b) the number of the EAP schemes forwarded by each of the North-Eastern States along with the number of schemes sanctioned or refused; and

(c) the names of the schemes and the status of the proposals in case of Tripura put forward in the years 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) State-wise details of the externally aided projects under implementation in the North-Eastern States may be seen at Statement-I. *(See* below*)*

(b) Details are at Statement-II. *(See* below*)*

(c) The names of the schemes and the status of the project proposals received from Government of Tripura during the period 2001—2005 may be seen at Statement-III.

Statement-I

Externally Aided Programmes for North-Eastern States

States	Donors	Name of the Project	Loan Amount
1	2	3	4
Assam	ADB	Assam Power Sector Development Programme	US$ 150 million
	ADB	Assam Power Sector Development Project	US$ 100 million
	ADB	Assam Governance and Public Resource Management Program	US$ 125 million
	ADB	Assam Governance and Public Resource Management Project	US$ 25 million